

IDEA Budget Software Updates

We are in the process of making several updates to the IDEA budget software, and you will begin to notice them this week. We also have plans to roll out several additional upgrades, based on your feedback, with the budget software release for FY 2012-13. Highlights of the current changes:

- IDEA flow-through allocation amounts were reduced in accordance with our state's reduced IDEA grant award for FY 2011-12. There was no reduction to the Preschool allocations. The allocation amounts can be found on the IDEA budget main menu's "Maintain Budget Funding Amounts" page.
- Due to the reduction in allocations, some LEAs will now have an approved flow-through budget greater than the amount of IDEA funds available. In these cases, LEAs will not be able to submit a new claim until a revised budget is submitted and approved.
- When the FY 2011-12 budget software was released last spring, there were a couple of software errors that we were unable to get fixed until now. Those mostly concerned budget fields that were supposed to be required, but a bug in the software was not enforcing this. Some of you ran into this issue when budgets were disapproved because non-capital and capital equipment assurance fields were left blank. This has been corrected. This fix will impact you if you edit a budget entry that was previously submitted with required fields blank.
- There were several stylization updates made to fonts and functionality, with the hope that it will make the software even more user friendly.

No News on FY 2012-13 IDEA Allocation Amounts

This is the time of year when LEAs begin asking if we have any updates on the IDEA funding allocations for next year. At this time, we have received no information regarding Wisconsin's estimated IDEA allocation for 2012-13. Last year we did not receive information until May, and as you know, those initial amounts remained an estimate until March of this year. As soon as we receive information, we will send out a listserv message.